

February 2004

NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

Nevada Highway Patrol

Report prepared on Major Bob Wideman's behalf by Acting Major Chris Perry

Overview

February 2004 again showed mixed success with respect to total crashes in the Northern Command. Total crashes increased 24.2 percent over February 2003, but decreased 5.8 percent as compared to January 2004. This is the second consecutive month posting this pattern. Both property damage and injury crashes reflected this trend. Fatal crashes, however, increased when compared to both last month and last year. As with last month, the weather may have influenced the increases experienced. February was a particularly inclement month with the National Weather Service reporting significant increases in precipitation over January 2004 and February 2003.

A note worthy effort that should be mentioned revolves around a multi-division effort to solve a hit and run fatality that occurred in Incline Village. Members of the Highway Patrol and Investigation Divisions continue to work cooperatively in tracking down the driver of a vehicle that struck and killed a pedestrian on February 10, 2004. This on-going investigation is an exemplary example of interagency cooperation.

Enforcement efforts declined in most categories for both comparison timeframes this reporting period. The command experienced a decrease in total violations of 14.8 percent as compared to February 2003, and 13.8 percent over January 2004. The largest decrease in activity was posted in DUI arrests prior to crashes. Decreases in all enforcement areas are likely reflective of the decrease in available personnel on each shift, coupled with the associated weather events. This command has been forced to change scheduling as of March 1st in an effort to address the work hour availability issue, as troopers are spending more time answering calls for service and less time involved in proactive traffic enforcement.

Available staffing for February 2004 decreased in excess of 27 percent as compared to the same month last year. Military leave and training continue to account for the largest share of lost work hours. Training commitments were 50 percent higher this month than for the same month last year, but posted a 26 percent decrease over January 2004. This suggests closer monitoring by command supervision, which will assist in increasing the commands efficiency.

Commercial enforcement activities continued to show enforcement increases throughout core area responsibilities. They posted increases in hazardous moving violations, total safety inspections, and dyed fuel inspections and citations. This unit continues to make strides toward the accomplishments of the goals associated with the Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan.

Content:

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FY04 Performance

Northern Command	February-04		Same Period Previous Year	% Change		Prior Reporting Period	% Change
Total Crashes	344		277	24.2%		365	-5.8%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	245		197	24.4%		254	-3.5%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	95		77	23.4%		110	-13.6%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	4		3	33.3%		1	300.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	12		11	9.1%		15	-20.0%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	5		3	66.7%		1	400.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	2		1	100.0%		0	200.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	1		0	100.0%		0	100.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1		1	0.0%		0	100.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	0		0	0.0%		1	-100.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	12		6	100.0%		17	-29.4%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	10		4	150.0%		14	-28.6%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	2		2	0.0%		3	-33.3%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 1.2%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 3.5%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 60.0%

Seat belts applicable

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 3.5%

Analysis

Reno Urban Crash Analysis

In the Reno Urban area there was a slight decrease of "Total Crashes". However, the increase in property crashes compared to last month were mainly due to the weather. February 2003 was a mild weather month and the increased accidents statistics showed this trend. The Reno Urban area had three fatal accidents that resulted in four deaths. This was an increase compared to last month and February 2003. The Reno Urban area is again showing that the majority of the crashes are occurring during the workweek and commuter hours. For a change, the majority of the injury crashes did not occur during the swing shift commute (4:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m.). Only 40% (20) of all injury crashes occurred on swing shift. Fifteen of the nineteen injury crashes on swing shift were "claimed injuries", meaning that the investigating trooper could not see any apparent injury but the involved citizen claimed injury. The Reno Urban staff was directed to concentrate enforcement efforts in the "spaghetti bowl" area during the identified high crash times. This effort has resulted in bringing the Spaghetti Bowl area crashes down from 63.2% to 48.6%.

Fernley/Fallon Crash Analysis

The area reported a 22.4% decrease in total crashes compared to last month and a 21.1% decrease compared to last year. No fatal crashes occurred this month. Injury crashes decreased 12.5% this month compared to last month and decreased by 30% compared to last year. Commercial vehicle crashes decrease 33.3% this month compared to last month but increased 14.3% or one more compared to last year.

Carson/Tahoe/Minden Crash Analysis

The District had a reduction in crashes for the Month of February 2004, compared to January 2004. Total crashes dropped by 9.6%. Property Damage crashes dropped by 13.3%. Injury and Fatality crashes remained the same. Weather related crashes totaled thirty-eight, or 36.5% of the total crashes. The district had twenty-eight weather related crashes last month. There was a dramatic increase in crashes when compared to last year. However, the average crash rate for the year was 90 per month, so the 30 reported in February 2003, was unusually low.

S.I.R.T. (Severe Incident Response Team)

The command had four fatality crashes resulting in the death of five people. Of the four fatality crashes S.I.R.T. was called to investigate three of them. The one crash that was not investigated by S.I.R.T. was a single vehicle, single occupant crash in Carson City. The first of the three crashes that S.I.R.T. investigated occurred on IR80 at Sierra St. The second crash occurred on US 395 at Steamboat. The third crash was a felony hit and run that occurred on SR 431 south of McCurry Blvd. The team also investigated two hit and run cases and closed one.

Area Weather Conditions

For February 2004, the National Weather Service reported sixteen days of precipitation totaling 1.56 inches in the Reno area. In February 2003, the National Weather Service reported ten days of precipitation for a total of .23 inches of precipitation.

In comparison the National Weather Service (Reno, NV) reported that the month of January 2004 had a strong weather front move into the area the first three days of the New Year. These weather fronts brought in significant precipitation and gusty winds. The average monthly temperature was 36.2 degrees. The precipitation recorded 0.96 inches with the heaviest amount on the 1st with 0.36, followed with two additional fronts on the 19th with 0.17 and the 20th with 0.40 inches.

Northern Command	February-04		Same Period Previous Year	% Change		Prior Reporting Period	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes ##	12		11	9.1%		15	-20.0%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes ##	68		113	-39.8%		91	-25.3%
Other Arrests	367		442	-17.0%		468	-21.6%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) ##	153		208	-26.4%		214	-28.5%
Speed violations	1883		2265	-16.9%		2000	-5.9%
Hazardous moving violations	643		897	-28.3%		714	-9.9%
Occupant restraint violations * ##	378		405	-6.7%		358	5.6%
Total violations [above violations included]	5021		5895	-14.8%		5822	-13.8%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	16		3	433.3%		22	-27.3%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	13		48	-72.9%		17	-23.5%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	557		363	53.4%		606	-8.1%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only							
Total safety violations -- citation	223		233	-4.3%		217	2.8%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1169		464	151.9%		1149	1.7%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	34		31	9.7%		39	-12.8%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	3		13	-76.9%		13	-76.9%
Total school buses inspected	88		122	-27.9%		100	-12.0%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	17		15	13.3%		11	54.5%
Total trucks weighed	83		425	-80.5%		54	53.7%
Total overweight citations	28		31	-9.7%		12	133.3%
Total dyed fuel inspections	457		365	25.2%		466	-1.9%
Total dyed fuel citations	3		0	300.0%		0	300.0%

* *Seat belt and child restraint*

Analysis

Reno Urban

Total activity for the area is down in every category whether compared to last month or to February of 2003. Through the Safestat process, the activity efforts will be addressed to improve the overall performance. In review, the decrease is likely related to two separate factors, the inclement weather experienced throughout the month, and more notably the command's decrease in available work hours for shift staffing. This has caused troopers in the field to spend more time answering calls for service and less time performing proactive traffic enforcement activities. To address this issue, the command reevaluated shift scheduling, which resulted in an adjustment of work hours providing for additional trooper presence during commuter hours.

Fernley/Fallon

The areas field enforcement activity continued its trend of increased performance compared to last year. The combined area troopers increased total violations issued this month by 22.2% when compared to last year.

Although the total violations decreased by 8.8% compared to last month, hazardous moving violations increased 46.6% and occupant restraint violations increased 36.9% indicating their commitment towards accident causing violations. These increases were accomplished with a 10% reduction in total hours worked. The 22.2% increase over last year is a much more substantial increase in that we are now comparing current activity to the improved efforts from last year.

Area Troopers continue their efforts to reduce loss of life and injuries from crashes with their enforcement plans. As compared to last year, speeding violations increased 10.4%, hazardous moving violations increased 72.6% and occupant restraint violations increased 139.6%.

Carson/Tahoe

The overall violation total did drop by 11.5%. Arrests dropped significantly. DUI crashes dropped by 42.9%, and DUI arrests dropped by 54.2%. Other arrests dropped by 57.5%. Speed violations dropped by 11.4%. Hazardous violations dropped by 5.9%. Seatbelt citations did increase by 2.4%. The district remains committed to the enforcement of traffic violations to aid the reduction of crashes and enforcement areas will be stressed. The district has been assisting the Reno area in the training of a trooper, thus reducing a Carson trooper's activity.

Commercial

Ten (10) roadblocks were scheduled, 5 roadblocks were cancelled. Three (3) Roadblocks were added to make up for winter weather conditions. One (1) roadblock was set up for training purposes for the cadets in the Nevada Highway Patrol academy. Commercial Enforcement handled five (5) property damage accidents and responded and provided assistance on seven (7) injury accidents, assisted on twenty (20) property damage accidents and two (2) fatal accidents. Commercial enforcement provided 65.41 hours of assistance in the form of traffic control and accident scene assistance. Commercial Enforcement handled; one hundred eighty two (182) motorist assists, which accounted for 41.93 hours.

Commercial Enforcement completed four hundred sixty one (461) inspections exceeding the required 412 per month. This placed Level 2 inspections at 38.14% of the federal fiscal goal as compared to 40.25% this time last year. Level 1 inspections are at 36.79% of the years total, up by 5%, compared to last year's achievements from the same time period. Level 2/3 inspections are at 38.14% of the year's goals, slightly lower from last year's goals and slightly higher from fiscal year 2002 goals. It should be noted that although it shows 2% lower than last years goals, Commercial Enforcement was required to complete 278 inspections last year, while this year the number increased to 412. Therefore, examining the past two years comparison it shows a marked improvement in activity as illustrated for the month of February 2004 which shows 461 Level 2 inspections compared to February 2003's number of 275.

In addition, the commercial section issued thirty traffic related citations and reported 1169 safety violations on the Driver/Vehicle Inspection report, up twenty from last month. The section performed 457 dyed fuel inspections resulting in three citations and inspected 88 school buses placing 17 out of service.

Northern Command	Total Authorized positions	Current positions staffed	Vacancy Rate
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STAFFING	February-04	Same Period Previous Year	Administrative Assignment	Field Operations	Positions Vacant	Vacancy Rate Percentage
Traffic [Tpr. & Sgt.]	89	94	18	71	0.0	0.0%
Commercial [Tpr. & Sgt.]	19	19	1	17	1.0	5.3%
Commercial CVSI	3	3		3	0.0	0.0%
BELOW WORK HOURS ARE FIELD OPERATIONS PERSONNEL ONLY						
WORK HOURS LOST	February-04		Same Period Previous Year	% Change	Prior Reporting Period	% Change
Annual leave	430.50		603	-28.6%	335.3	28.4%
Compensatory leave	294.60		431	-31.6%	334.5	-11.9%
Sick Leave [personal and family]	809.00		919	-12.0%	1097.05	-26.3%
Military leave	549.00		53	935.8%	609	-9.9%
Holiday off	156.00		126	23.8%	308	-49.4%
Training	1289.82		857	50.5%	1752.5	-26.4%
Administrative leave	64.00		160	-60.0%	6	966.7%
Leave without pay	0		80	-8000.0%	0	0.0%
Vacancy [173 hours per position*]	173.00		0	17300.0%	173	0.0%
Total work hours lost	3765.92		3229	16.6%	4615.35	-18.4%
OVERTIME	Feb-04		Same Period Previous Year	% Change	Prior Reporting Period	% Change
Paid overtime claimed	1137.92		1260	-9.7%	1279.06	-11.0%
Compensatory overtime claimed	164.08		264	-37.8%	214.32	-23.4%
Total overtime hours	1302.00		1524	-14.6%	1493.38	-12.8%
TOTAL HOURS WORKED	February-04		Same Period Previous Year	% Change	Prior Reporting Period	% Change
Number of authorized positions x 173 hours*	15743.00		20068	-21.6%	16608	-5.2%
Work hours lost	3765.92		3229	16.6%	4615.35	-18.4%
Overtime	1302.00		1524	-14.6%	1493.38	-12.8%
Total hours worked	13279.08		18363	-27.7%	13486.03	-1.5%

* 173 hours based upon 2080 work hours per year divided by 12 months

Analysis

In an effort to address the 27.7 percent decrease in total hours worked, shift scheduling on day and swing shifts were adjusted to provide up to 20 percent more personnel per shift. This was accomplished through the implementation of a 9 hour per day work schedule. This measure should allow troopers to engage in more proactive traffic enforcement during the heavy traffic volume periods.

The Northern Command currently has one vacancy in the commercial section for a trooper position. February had eighteen positions assigned to administrative duties. These positions include one Administrative Sergeant, one S.I.R.T. Team Sergeant, one Sergeant assigned to Policy re-write, four troopers assigned to the S.I.R.T. Team, one trooper assigned to the Public Information Coordinator, one trooper assigned as the Command Liaison, two troopers assigned to the court warrants section, two troopers assigned to the background investigation section, one trooper assigned to the training section, three troopers assigned to the motor field training program, and one commercial trooper assigned to administrative duties.

Total hours worked by the Northern Command personnel in February 2004, decreased slightly, 1.5 % from the previous month. Overtime and work hours lost decreased compared to the previous month by 12.8% and 18.4% respectively. The Northern Command provided 158.25 hours of training in support of the training division during February, this is down considerably from the 794.75 hours provided to the training division in January.

Reno Urban

The staffing levels remain consistent with last month. The area continues to have several troopers not working the road due to their assignments in backgrounds, military leave and administrative duties. Annual, compensatory, and sick leave were down compared to last month. Overtime claimed also decreased compared to last month and last year.

Fernley/Fallon

Authorized staffing levels were reduced in February by one position. Total hours worked decreased 10.1% compared to last month. Compared to last month, the area troopers increased annual leave usage by 11.4%. Sick leave remained close to the same compared to last month and training increased by 27.5%. Overtime decreased this month by 28% compared to last month and decreased 14% compared to last year.

Carson/Tahoe

Staffing levels remain steady. The trooper on Military Leave is expected to return in March. The district saw a decrease of hours lost by 2.0%. Overtime remained fairly steady, but did drop 6.6%. Total hours worked dropped by .2%.

Commercial

Lost work hours decreased by 26.4% from last month and increased from the last year by 59.2%. Annual leave decreased from last year by 55.9% and decreased from last month by 79.1%. Compensatory time decreased from last year by .7% and increased from last month by 14.3%. Sick leave increased by 1.6% from last year and decreased from last month by 55.1%. Holiday time off increased by 240% from last year while it decreased by 56.4% from last month. Training increased by 319.6% from last year while it decreased 25.2 % from last month.

Overall hours worked increased by 21.4% from last year and decreased 9.3% from last month. In comparison to February 2003, there were 4 different areas of any significance. Annual leave decreased by 55.9% annually and 79.1% monthly. Sick leave increased by 1.6% annually and decreased by 55.1% monthly. Training hours increased 319.6% annually and decreased by 25.2 % monthly. Total overtime hours increased by 130.1% annually and decreased 36.2% monthly.

Northern Command

ACCIDENT RATIOS

February-04

Ratio of crashes per Traffic position		
Total		4.8
Property		3.5
Injury		1.3
Fatal		0.1
DUI		0.2
Commercial vehicle		0.2
Ratio of deaths per fatal crash		1.3
without seatbelts		0.8
with seatbelts		0.3

FIELD ENFORCEMENT

Ratio of enforcement per Traffic position		
DUI arrests from crashes		0.2
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes		1.0
Other Arrests		5.2
Total persons arrested (DUI included)		2.2
Speed violations		26.5
Hazardous moving violations		9.1
Occupant restraint violations		5.3
Total violations		70.7

Northern Command

INSPECTION / ENFORCEMENT RATIOS

February-04

Ratio of inspections and enforcement per Commercial position

Hazardous moving violations - citations	*	0.9
Other traffic violations - citations	*	0.8
Total safety inspections [all levels]		27.9
Terminal inspections TIP		0.0
Total safety violations -- citation	*	13.1
Average safety violations per inspection -- citation		0.4
Total safety violations -- repair order		58.5
Average safety violations per inspection -- repair order		2.1
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"		1.7
Average vehicles placed OOS per inspection		0.1
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"		0.2
Average drivers placed OOS per inspection		1.0
Total school buses inspected		4.4
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"		0.9
Total trucks weighed	*	4.9
Total overweight citations	*	1.6
Total dyed fuel inspections	*	26.9
Total dyed fuel citations	*	0.2

* Commercial sworn only

Analysis

The average number of crashes investigated per traffic position was 4.8. This ratio is the same as it was for January 2004. The average number of violations cited per trooper in February was 70.7. This is a reduction from 76.6 to one in January 2004.

When compared to January 2004, the ratios for commercial personnel increased in the following categories: total safety violations – citations and repair orders, school buses placed out of service, total number of trucks weighed, overweight citations and dyed fuel citations.

Administrative Service

Court/Warrants

The troopers assigned to the section completed fifteen court runs in February compared to twelve in January, completed eighteen add bookings and transported thirty subjects on NHP warrants. Subpoenas received and served increased from 249 to 256.

The administrative assistants assigned to the section entered 1,800 warrants this period, continuing to make warrant entry the top priority. The section received 504 new warrants, slightly up from the 458 received in January. The section also validated 334 warrants, and confirmed 86 warrants.

Evidence

The section had an increase in the number of new cases submitted in February compared to January. There were forty-five new cases submitted this period compared to twenty-three in January. However, the number of items submitted from the cases stayed close, sixty-nine in February and sixty-one items in January. The section managed to bring the number of adjudicated items destroyed back into an average with fifty-eight items destroyed.

Front office

The front office received 40% or 68 fewer arrest reports this period compared to January and processed 38% or 78 fewer reports. This reduction in reports received is due to fewer arrests made this month compared to last month and arrest reports carried over to the next month. The front office staff increased in its driver license revocation (DLD-45's) process by 64% or 32 additional revocations as well as increasing lab requests by 43.94%. The number of DLD-45's processed on a month-to-month basis is dependent on the number of lab requests received. Office accident reports increased from 31 in January to 47 in February. The number of citation books issued continues to decrease as the anticipated arrival of more cites will be the first week of March. The number of reports copied and sent out increased from 123 in January to 381 in February.

Training

The NEATS (State Personnel) System is online and available. Scheduling for the 2004 in-service training has begun and the method to shift from the "one-week pullout" plan to an all-at-once plan is being utilized.

Work Hours

The court /warrants section had 8 hours of overtime during this rating period with 6 hours of leave taken. Overtime increased to 37 hours to facilitate the entry of backlogged warrants with leave taken decreasing by 23%. The front office is operating at one vacancy, and has had to provide some coverage for training as well. The overtime in the front office increased from 35 hours in January to

Communications Center

As the center continues to increase air traffic responsibility, the four available radio channels are being utilized to meet the changing needs of the department. The centers goal to keep Reno primary traffic on RN1 has been successful as has utilizing RN2 as the secondary channel for inquiry traffic. The attempts at splitting the outlying traffic to RN3 have been more of a challenge, due to staff shortages. RN4 is currently being used for allied traffic.

The CAD system was upgraded to Version 10 on February 8, 2004. Many new features were added as well as changes to existing features. After the initial installation there were some minor problems, most of which have been resolved. A new recruitment has been requested from Personnel to begin the process to fill future vacancies.

Public Information Officer

February 2004, the Northern Command continued to provide the media a variety of stories and coverage of our operations. The media covered the divisions with nineteen television and radio interviews, covering events such as Northern Commands 2003 in review presentation which included employee of the year awards, "DPS Dispatchers"; Press conference on an ongoing hit and run investigation, Safe Kids child safety seat kickoff, story on yielding to emergency vehicles, safety presentation for Applied Industrial Control Corporation, USFS driving safety/accident investigation, and PSD III Barbara Saucier retirement luncheon.

The division also received exposure from the newspapers with twelve printed articles in reference to the above listed events and a double fatality that was investigated by S.I.R.T. on US 395 near Steamboat, a D.U.I. arrest, a drug seizure arrest and a Felony D.U.I./ Reckless driving arrest.

Projects / Action Plans

In the Reno urban area, aggressive "Bowl Patrol" will continue during the high commuter hours. As of March 15, 2004, the motorcycle program will be at full strength with six units. Three motor officers will be on day shift and three will work on an early swing shift. Their priority will be traffic law enforcement in the spaghetti bowl and construction zone areas. The motor units are to be the primary units to respond to crashes in the bowl area and the construction zones during their shift. This will in turn relieve the troopers assigned to car units to work outside the parameter of the core area to step up the enforcement in these areas.

The Fernley/Fallon district is increasing its aircraft enforcement on US 50.

The Carson/Minden/Tahoe district will continue their emphasis on enforcing seatbelt violations and directed enforcement targeted at high accident areas and times. Day shift will continue to utilize the ADAPT program to reduce aggressive driving. The district will be working with the Carson City Sheriff's Department on crosswalk enforcement.